

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the final Office Action dated October 3, 2006.

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's continued thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Claims 6-20 and 23-31 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 21 and 22 have been rejected.

Claims 1-5, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,887,601 to Richards ("Richards").

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 21 were amended to be directed to a removable osteosynthesis clip and to describe the engagement legs as the "at least two straight engagement legs extending parallel to one another". As discussed in the Submission in reply to the Office Action mailed June 1, 2006, Richards teaches staples having curved legs. Such staples cannot be removed. As stated in the above referenced Submission, even the straight legged staple of Figure 7, which is similar to common office staples, changes its legs' shape, as shown in Figure 8, after placement into the bone. Therefore, Richards does not teach, describe, or suggest straight engagement legs extending parallel to one another.

Thus, Applicants' independent claims 1 and 21 are patentably distinct from Richards. Claims 2-5 and 22 depend directly or indirectly from the above discussed independent claims and are, therefore, allowable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the respective independent claims.

Further, in view of the allowability of the independent claims, it is submitted that claims 6 and 19-20 should be rejoined in this application.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS
FILING SYSTEM ON DECEMBER 15, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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